[Mr. K. R. Narayana Aiyar.]

(*b*) The trend of the price of cocoanuts has been downward in recent years owing to the competition in the world markets of other commodities producing oils and fats. The Government are considering the steps that should be taken to obtain improved prices for cocoanuts.

Cinchona cultivation in Travancore.

426. *MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the report on the prospects of Cinchona cultivation in India published by the Imperial Council of Agriculture Research has engaged the attention of the Government ;

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken upon it ; and

(*c*) whether Travancore has got ample lands suitable for the cultivation of Cinchona ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The recommendations in the report are under consideration.

(*c*) According to the report, certain areas in the High Ranges have been stated to be suitable for the cultivation of Cinchona.

Opening of an Ophthalmic Hospital in the Kottayam Division.

427. *MR. K. P. KOCHUKORA THARAKAN : Will the Government be pleased to state whether they propose to open an Ophthalmic Hospital anywhere in the Kottayam Division ?

VAIDYASASTRAKUSALA MRS. M. POONEN LUKOSE (*Surgeon General*) : There is no such proposal.

Import duty on tobacco products.

428. *MR. K. DOMINIC JOSEPH : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from any Planting Associations that the products of tobacco intended for use as an insecticide by bona fide cardamom Planters, should be exempted from import duty ;

(*b*) if so, what is the name of those associations and the replies that have been sent to such associations ; and

(*c*) whether any steps have been taken by the Government on such representations ?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (i) M. P. Mani Esq., B. E. Kumily.

(ii) The Travancore Cardamom Sales Association.

(iii) Gudampara Cardamom Estate.

(iv) The Travancore Cardamom Planters' Association, Cumbum.

(v) Travancore Combined Planters Association.

(vi) The Indian Planters' Association of Kerala.

(*c*) Yes.

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